

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION**

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### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**May 6, 2004**

*(Approved)*

Members Present: Edward Murdough, Earl Sweeney, Ronald O'Keefe, David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Roger Hatfield, Al Burbank, John Hoglund, Joseph Butts, J. William Degnan, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: Karen Schlitzer, Scott Weden, Peter Russell, Corey Landry.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training Staff*—Bruce McPherson, Bureau Chief; Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Susan Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.  
*Forest Protection Bureau*—John Dodge, Regional Ranger.  
*Federation of Fire Mutual Aids*—Chief Kevin Pratt, Raymond.

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Item 1. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag.** The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair David Duquette at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2004 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

**Item 2. Introduction.** Chair Duquette introduced Chief Kevin Pratt of Raymond, who will be nominated to replace Commissioner Hatfield as the Federation of Fire Mutual Aids representative on this Commission.

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Item 1. April 1, 2004.** *Motion* was made by Commissioner O'Keefe, seconded by Commissioner Burbank, to accept the Minutes of the April 1, 2004 Commission meeting with the following corrections:

- (a) Page 4, item (d), (2), second paragraph, second sentence, change the word "program" to "probably," so the sentence will read: Captain Chandler replied that it would probably be him.
- (b) Page 4, item (f), (1), third paragraph, third sentence, change the sentence to read: The Standard does not require rappelling in Firefighter II.
- (c) Page 5, item (f), (1), third sentence, add "in the standard," so the sentence will read: Director Mason said that rappelling was not taught in the Standard because it was fun.

## III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

**Item 1. Certificates Presented.** Chair Duquette presented the first certificate to Commissioner O'Keefe to officially recognize him as the first Fire Officer III and IV in New Hampshire. Chair Duquette then presented the second certificate to Director Mason to officially recognize him as the second Fire Officer III and IV in New Hampshire.

## IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Item 1. Emergency Medical Services Liaison.** Chair Duquette reported that he spoke with Bureau Chief Prentiss this morning. Items of interest are:

- (a) Commissioner Flynn has appointed the special committee to look at the protocols, and that committee has been given a 90-day window of operation.
- (b) They are currently working on the EMS testing process.. New Hampshire has been chosen as one of the states to test the new process.
- (c) The Coordinating Board meets again in two weeks.

**Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office.** Acting Director Degnan reported on the following items:

- (a) They have had no fatalities in New Hampshire in the past month.
- (b) Fifty communities have been trained in RiskWatch. Approximately 80 percent of those are very active. There are some barriers that

- need to be overcome. Deputy Chief Chris Silver of Hampton Fire Department is doing a paper on how to overcome those barriers.
- (c) In Hooksett, a police officer suspected the men running from a fire scene had started a fire at the police training site, gave chase, and caught them.
  - (d) Berlin had a major downtown fire plus nine other arson fires. The downtown fire is listed as undetermined, and the other fires were arson. In one case gasoline was poured over a propane tank. Three investigators worked at the scene in Berlin. That Thursday night they brought in extra troops to guard the scene. They have caught four children for six of the other arson fires, which were motor vehicle fires.
  - (e) HB 1326 was looking at fireworks laws.

HB 664 strengthened the penalties for illegal sales. They would lose their license for two years.

HB 664 has taken a number of different turns. It has been killed and is now merged with HB 1326. The House voted for nonconcurrence, so now it will go to a Committee of Conference.

NFPA gets their definitions there. We would do the same thing. We will be checking to see who is on the Committee of Conference. The effective date was July 5, 2005. Representatives are willing to go back to July 5, 2004. A few we have cited in the past have a problem with the definitions.

- (f) Manufactured housing in communities that don't have a code officer or full-time fire inspector would have to be approved through the State, and we would need a person with specialized training to do it.

Commissioner Murdough asked if that would apply to school trailers. Acting Director Degnan answered that it would not as they are modular units, not manufactured housing.

- (g) They should have the smoke detectors in within the next few weeks for the NFPA smoke detector program. They will be targeting the north country first. Acting Director Degnan has drafted a letter to the fire departments that should go out in the next two weeks.

**Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau.** Regional Ranger John Dodge was present to report for the Forest Protection Bureau.

- (a) The fire towers are up and running, as well as the air patrol program.

- (b) Eleanor Mardin started as a Forest Ranger on April 16, and is currently at the Police Academy for training.
- (c) Wildland refresher training, which is a national requirement, will be done in June. They have already had their first death this year. Illinois firefighters were returning from Florida, and two were struck at 4:00 a.m. by a tractor trailer; one of them was killed.
- (d) The Department of the Interior says the appropriate age is 16 and 17. The federal government doesn't agree. The federal agencies removed the age requirement so they are going with 18 years old. That relates to our Explorers who want to train for that. We don't have an agency policy on it, but will be looking at 18.
- (e) In the Forestry section of the Firefighter I program, they are introducing leadership and management requirements. One person is going out of state this month to represent the entire compact. It's not producing the results wanted.
- (f) Those who have been before can take a refresher, which is carrying 45 pounds for three miles in 45 minutes. If someone is going on out-of-state assignments, they need to have this class on June 5, 2004 at the Tilton-Northfield Fire Department.
- (g) Initial response on federal lands, they typically have an agreement on the State level. It's extremely important because you don't want the federal government to kick locals out.
- (h) Director Bryce is interested in attending the June Commission Retreat, and he is looking forward to it.
- (i) Commissioner Hatfield noted that the Warden/Deputy Warden cards have expired. Ranger Dodge said that the cards expired but not the position that goes until the person is replaced or retires. They are currently one-half way through the applications.

Director Mason asked if it would be done through Administrative Rules. Ranger Dodge said he should ask Director Bryce in June. Director Mason asked if they are increasing the hours, and Ranger Dodge replied that they are not.

**Item 4. Emergency Preparedness and Security.** Commissioner Landry was absent.

Assistant Commissioner Sweeney reported that the law has passed both the House and the Senate, and should be signed by the Governor. The next round of funding was approved by the Governor & Council for homeland security. Continue to give up some of the State portion of the funding for the radios.

**Item 5. Curriculum Review.** Chair Duquette stated that there are six members on the Curriculum Review Committee. He would like them to meet one hour before the regular Commission meeting each month. The six members are Commissioners Burbank, Carrier, Hatfield, Landry, and Weden, as well as Chair Duquette.

Chair Duquette noted that the Curriculum Status Report is in each Commission member's packet and is as follows:

- (a) Driver/Operator Series:
  - (1) Pumps:  
Classes are scheduled in Candia for June.
- (b) Hazardous Materials Series:
  - (1) Operations:  
This program is well underway at this point with no problems reported.
  - (2) Technician:  
The trailer is proving to be a valuable asset and will be an on-going work in progress.

Commissioner Butts said that he taught the Hazardous Materials Operations program last weekend. There is a lot of looking up material in the manual. Chief Rosolen said that the PowerPoint program is only to keep the instructor on track. Commissioner Butts said the problem is that the PowerPoint program does not have all the information they need, and the manual and the program do not always follow each other. Director Mason asked Commissioner Butts to go to Program Coordinator David Jones with his concerns.

- (c) Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:  
We have just completed the first 40-hour certification class and will be meeting soon to evaluate the course delivery. For the moment the program was successful. A 40-hour program is planned for mid June with a number of eight-hour re-certification classes planned as well.
- (d) NFPA 1030 Series:
  - (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners--At this point classes will be scheduled periodically as they consistently fill up.

Commissioner Hatfield said that the Fire Inspector II Visiting Committee has had one meeting so far. They should be ready to present their proposed program in August or September.

- (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator is in progress and looking at two separate programs, one a one-week course for firefighters, and a two-week course for fire investigators. At this point it looks as though the New York curriculum is being considered for both classes. Awaiting information from the Visiting Committee at this point.
- (3) NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator will probably follow the 1033 standard.
- (e) Rescue Series:
  - (1) Structural Collapse:  
No pilots scheduled as yet.
  - (2) Confined Space:  
The September class went well with a trip to Merrimack to use the confined space trailer prop as it could not be delivered on site. A class is currently in progress in Exeter.
- (f) NFPA Series:
  - (1) NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and Firefighter II  
This committee has met and is considering only minor changes. There will be no changes in hours. They have met twice, will have a third meeting shortly, and are looking forward to presenting this curriculum in May or June.
  - (2) NFPA 1021 FIRE OFFICER:  
This committee is currently working on the delivery process.
  - (3) NFPA 1041 INSTRUCTOR:  
This committee is in discussion over Instructor I, Instructor II, and perhaps Instructor III curricula at this time. With the addition of approximately 12 hours, this may be a reality. At this time this committee is looking to present their report to the Commission so as to begin work on the bridge course and the train-the-trainers.

Commissioner Carrier reported that this committee met last month for the last time, and they were down to four people at that meeting. He noted that Captain Dean Chandler did the bulk of the work, and the committee members really appreciate it.

Commissioner Carrier said that, with the addition of 12 hours to the program, this is an upper level course and a quality product in the end. This would be a Fire Instructor III level program. The committee is looking at a bridge

program from the Fire Instructor II to the Fire Instructor III, and they would like to do train-the-trainers. Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI) is what the committee looked at.

Commissioner Hatfield noted that there are a few Fire Instructor III's in the State, who obtained their certification through the National Fire Academy (NFA) program. He said he has mixed emotions on the new proposed program. There is an accreditation process in place now. For a young person coming into the program, you might be above him/her as this may be before they built their skills. Commissioner Carrier said that we are not saying that any fire department should hire them to develop programs.

Commissioner Carrier said that EMS has a problem with that. They don't have the same processes that we do. Why do we train them to Fire Instructor II before we training them to Firefighter I. They are adequate to do the job.

Director Mason said that (1) he called MFRI and spoke at length about all the concerns. Now they understand what goes into developing the program. They understand they are part of a bigger thing. (2) You end up with a more diversified instructor. We are looking at basically the same thing. (3) Annual recertification; need documentation to continue. He did a follow up.

Commissioner Hatfield says that he doesn't disagree. We do put a lot on their plate in the three weekend process. We spend two weeks at the NFA, and we are going to put that into two days here.

Chief Rosolen said that presently we have a 48-hour program, and we are going up to 60 hours, which is not counting Orientation. Orientation is two to three hours in one evening.

Chair Duquette asked if the program could be done in one week instead of three weekends. Commissioner Carrier answered that it cannot be done that way because the students need time to do their homework.

Chair Duquette asked if the program requires two instructors at all times. Commissioner Carrier replied that, the days the students do their presentations, they split into two groups to save time. He noted that they are pretty careful whom we hire. He stated that it's a little bit different course than out on the drillyard.

Commissioner Butts asked if we are going to use Fire Instructor II's to teach Fire Instructor III. Commissioner Carrier explained that the people who teach are very specific to the module they teach. They also get into co-teaching. He said that Fire Instructor II is course development and Fire Instructor III is course management.

Commissioner Burbank asked, if someone is a teacher, would that person get credit for the program. Director Mason replied that they would; Chief Rosolen got his certification because he is a teacher. Chief Rosolen further explained that we do that now for the NH Technical College program in Laconia. Commissioner Carrier also noted that we still have the 16-hour course available for Company Officers. Commissioner Hatfield said that the 16-hour program is still a great one. There is no teaching time in the 16 hours. He asked if we still have the NFA programs. Director Mason said that they have changed the names.

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to run two pilot programs for Fire Instructor I-II-III as proposed. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Hatfield said he would like to know how the students felt the work load was when the pilots are done.

- (g) Other:
- (1) Visiting Committees for the following in accordance with the Commission vote on February 3, 1999 are about to commence in the near future once the committees are established. Hopefully to be established this meeting.
    - (i) NFPA 1002 Aerial Apparatus needs to be brought on line as soon as possible.
    - (ii) NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Decontamination is currently being revised by Dave Jones and Captain Anderson adding weapons of mass destruction to make it current.



**Item 6. Retreat.** Commissioner Murdough reminded everyone that the Commission's Retreat is Thursday, June 3, 2004 at the Society for the Protection of NH Forests in Concord. The Retreat will start at 10:00 a.m. and go as long as people want to talk, but it will have to be done in time for the Annual Legislative Hearing that night. Commissioner Murdough said he left one question off the questionnaire that everyone should think about: Should the Commission be more active in EMS issues?

## **V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

**Item 1. Director's Report #81.** The Director's Report was as follows: Welcome to summer, or spring, or sometimes back to winter! This year has held true to the adage "if you do not like the weather. . .wait a minute." Springtime starts our busiest season at the Fire Academy.

(a) *RECRUIT SCHOOL:*

We are in week #6 of 11 for our annual Recruit School. Firefighter I will be done this week, then Firefighter II with nearly 50 students starts next week. The last two weeks will be the certified Career Firefighter program, Class #18.

(b) *FIRE INSTRUCTORS & OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF NH:*

The FIOANH held its annual meeting on April 21 at the Makris Restaurant in Concord. The highlight of the evening was when Commission Chair David Duquette was bestowed the 2003 John T. Ayers Fire Instructor of the Year award. Congratulations, Duke!

(c) *LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARING:*

The New Hampshire House of Representatives' Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee will hold their annual fire service hearing at the Fire Academy on June 3 at 7:00 p.m. This will be after our retreat on the same day. . .dinner will be served at the Academy at 6:00 p.m.

(d) *NHCTC-LACONIA:*

The second largest Fire Science Associate Degree program in the country is at the NH Community Technical College in Laconia. The Craft Committee met on April 23 and discussed the program. Members of the Craft Committee who are also on this Commission are Steve Carrier, Bill Degnan, and me.

(e) *FETN:*

As we have been reporting the last few months, Fire & Emergency Training Network is available for one year to all NH fire departments free of charge. We have confirmed that 35 are not accepting the offer, and there may be more. We are looking into

departments with multiple stations at this point. Most sites are up and running presently.

- (f) *NORTH AMERICAN FIRE TRAINING DIRECTORS:*  
Adam Piskura (CT), President of the NAFTD has appointed me as secretary of the organization. I will be in office for two years, which is when our next election will take place.
- (g) *SAFETY & HEALTH COUNCIL CONFERENCE:*  
I served as the Chair of the Safety & Health Council of New Hampshire's 33<sup>rd</sup> conference last month in Nashua. There were about 250 attendees, and the Fire Academy had a booth in the exhibit hall. This was my second year as Chair. . .and last! I presently serve as the volunteer president of the Council.
- (h) *SPEAKING:*  
The Fire Academy is glad to present our program on the road. I reported about two presentations last month and two more were within the last couple of weeks. I spoke at the Dover and Durham Rotary Clubs. Please let us know if we can help you out at a civic group meeting.
- (i) *ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & SECURITY:*  
The Advisory Council met at the Fire Academy on April 8, followed by the annual meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs. During the day we had emergency response demonstrations and displays by the National Guard, the Police Academy, the Concord Fire Department, the Central NH Hazardous Materials Team, the State Fire Marshal, Emergency Management, and the Fire Academy. These were well received and informative.

*HAVE A SAFE MONTH!*

Further information on the above subjects included:

- (b) Director Mason came up with a graph to show where our money has gone from July 1, 2001 through April 30, 2004. This will be put into a PowerPoint program for the beginning of the legislative hearing on June 3. About \$1 million a year is brought in from the insurance fees.

Other items discussed were:

- (k) *Division Name Change:* The Division name is to be changed to the Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services. It went through the Senate; then the House made changes, and the Senate concurred. The Commission and the Trauma board would have to vote for the Director of the Division.

- (l) *Regional Training Centers:* Our Goal #3 (HB 303, 2001) was to support regional training centers. This year we have \$8,000 going to three of those training centers: Interstate Emergency Unit in Brentwood, Nashua Fire Rescue, and Meadowood Training Grounds.
- (m) *Pro Board Re-accreditation:* The Pro Board has scheduled June 7 and 8 for re-accreditation here. When they came originally, they had scheduled three days. At that time we had everything ready for them, so they were done here in a day rather than two days. We are looking at them maybe being here a day this time.
- (n) *Vehicle Extrication Module:* Tow Masters are holding a lot of their training sessions here at the Fire Academy. Our Firefighter II has Vehicle Extrication as a module. It usually costs us \$200 per car, and we use four or five cars per program. We now have an agreement with Tow Masters for 20 or more cars per year.
- (o) *Commission Members' Re-appointments:* George Rousseau wrote a letter to the Governor for reappointment of Commissioner Hoglund. He received a letter in return from the Governor's Office stating that the Governor will consider Commissioner Hoglund when he makes his decision.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

None.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

## VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

**Item 1. Commissioner Hatfield Resigning.** Commissioner Hatfield said that it has been an honor and a privilege to work with this Commission. He said he is stepping down as Commissioner, and Chief Kevin Pratt of Raymond will be attending the Retreat in his place.

**Item 2. Massachusetts Firefighter Killed.** Acting Director Degnan asked if anyone had any more news about the Massachusetts firefighter who was killed recently when he fell out of a fire truck. No one had anything new on this.

**Item 3. DVD's for the Military.** Director Mason thanked everyone very much who has sent DVD's to his son, Chris, in Iraq. Chris hasn't started receiving them yet. Director Mason noted that Les Cartier's wife was at the Post Office mailing one out, and the woman standing behind her asked if she was sending it to Chris Mason, as she was doing the same thing.

**Item 4. Bud Nelson's Retirement Party.** Chair Duquette reported that some of the Commission members attending Bud Nelson's retirement party, and it was a hoot.

**Item 5. Amherst Fire Department.** Commissioner Hoglund said that the Amherst Fire Department and the gear that they received through one of the Fire Act Grants were pictured in the newspaper.

**Item 6. Chief Buxton's Retirement Party.** Commissioner Hatfield said that tickets are available for Chief Mike Buxton's retirement party, which will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2004.

**Item 7. Make-A-Wish Foundation.** Commissioner Butts reported that Manchester firefighters will be participating in a ride again this year to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. They raised over \$10,000 this year.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion*** by Commissioner O'Keefe, seconded by Assistant Commissioner Sweeney, to adjourn at 11:42 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 05/06/04
2. Director's Report #81
3. Visiting Committee Report: NFPA 1041, Fire Instructor
4. Curriculum Status Report 05/06/04
5. Fire Training in NH: Where Does the Funding Go
6. Minutes of Meeting 04/01/04—Draft
7. Minutes of Meeting 03/04/04—Approved 04/01/04

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